IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 15 to page 38, line 22, as follows:

Favorable examples of the form of the nitrogen oxide adsorption material used in the above-mentioned nitrogen oxide adsorption component of the present invention include a powder, a porous material, a foam, and a honeycomb, but other forms are also possible. In the case of a powder, the adsorption material can be used, for example, by being supported on a ceramic honeycomb or a metal honeycomb. Similarly, in the case of a porous material or a foam, these can be pulverized and supported on a honeycomb, but the usage form is not limited to these. With the present invention, the above-mentioned electrochemical cell is made up of at least three layers: the anode, cathode, and solid electrolyte of the oxygen ion conductor, but any cell can be used as long as it has the function of electrochemically reducing nitrogen oxides into nitrogen and oxygen when voltage is applied between these electrodes. The decomposition of nitrogen oxides by this electrochemical cell is a function of the oxygen ion conductivity of the solid electrolyte being used, and with the above-mentioned electrochemical cell, for example, oxygen ion conductivity will be high enough for sufficient decomposition of nitrogen oxides when the temperature is over 400°C. However, at low temperatures where the exhaust gas immediately after start-up of the combustor is 400°C or lower, the oxygen ion conductivity of the solid electrolyte is too low for sufficient decomposition of nitrogen oxides. Further, with the present invention, [[The]] the nitrogen oxide adsorption matcrial should be selected after taking into account the operating tempcrature of the electrochemical cell being used, so that the material has a function of adsorbing and releasing nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas that is suitable to this operating temperature.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 40, line 19 to page 41, line 19, as follows:

The present invention is characterized in that exhaust gas from a combustor is pretreated in advance with a nitrogen oxide adsorption material that adsorbs nitrogen oxides at low temperatures until the temperature of the exhaust gas rises, and releases nitrogen oxides at high temperatures after the temperature of the exhaust gas has risen, and this pretreated exhaust gas is then treated with an electrochemical cell. With the present invention, the result of employing this constitution is that nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas are adsorbed by the nitrogen oxide adsorption material when the exhaust gas is cold immediately after the combustor has been started up, the nitrogen oxides are released from the adsorption material at the point when the exhaust gas temperature rises to the operating temperature of the electrochemical cell, and this reliably removes the nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas immediately after the start-up of the combustor. [[Wit]] With the present invention, a nitrogen oxide adsorption material having the specified nitrogen oxide adsorption and release characteristics is suitably selected and used, so that the nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas from a combustor can be removed at high efficiency and high precision even while the exhaust gas is cold immediately after the start-up of the combustor, so the release of nitrogen oxides is suppressed right from the start-up of the combustor.